THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Subramanian Swamy, please sit down.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Do you mean that I cannot speak?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You can speak. But, please.

I will find out what Mr. Swamy is talking about. Then I will say whether he should or should not mention it.

What is about the LTTE?

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I want to say that the LTTE is a foreign terrorist organisation. It has already announced a fresh hit-list which includes persons like Mr. Chandra Shekhar and Ms. Jayalalitra and so on. (*Interruptions*). Wait a minute.

Therefore, it is incumbent on all of us not to be associated with it in any manner and to help it in any manner. Anyone who does so is, in fact, a traitor, and that is how we should regard him. That is all I want to say. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Madam, I have a point of order. The crisis which erupted this mornnig was in two parts.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That matter is closed. If it is closed for me, it is closed for everybody else also.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is a question of clarification. That is what I am asking. It is simple matter of clarification. Are you going through the entire proceedings of this morning?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, the entire.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Then, it is all right.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is the who trouble. When so many people were speaking. Mr. Padmanabham came to my chair because he could not hear anything. I told him at that time—he will bear with me—that I would see the entire record. That matter is over.

Let us take up another matter. Shiv Shankerji. Let me first make an announcement, Shiv Shankerji, if you don't mind, because, otherwise, Members may object to it later.

I have to inform Members that Shri Balram Jakhar, Minister of Agriculture, will make a statement in the House regarding the drought situation in the country, at 5-30 p.m. Clarifications on this statement may be asked after the clarifications on the statement made in the House on the 31st July, 1991 by the Minister of Water Resources, listed for 6-00 p.m. today, are over.

AN HON. MEMBER: Will Cauvery not be taken up today? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Cauvery is not drought.

अभी मैंने उनको बुलाया है । आप बैठिये ।

From now onwards you will abide by the Chair, and I will also abide by your request.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Gujarat): Madam, I rise in anguish to make a statement which in a way affects the dignity of this House and also the nation.

Madam, the matter of sharing of river waters is a highly sensitive issue. In recent times the sharing of the Cauvery waters has created quite a big ripple not only in this House but also outside. In fact, in this House for quite some time the Members belonging to the two States have expressed their anguish and anxiety. This issue involves roughly about ten crores of people of both the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Any one politicking in a matter of this nature is trying to fish in troubled waters. In my submission he is playing with the fortunes of the nation. I would go to the extent of terming that such a person would be the enemy of the nation itself. If he is any form happened to be the Leader of this House sometime or the Leader of the Opposition, it is all the more bad and it in a way is a reflection on the House itself.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Madam, I would like to know the procedure. How has this come in the House? Nobody has cast any aspersion on him.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. He is speaking to the Chair, not to you. I have permitted him.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Under what rule? Every week there are... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him explain. He is a senior Member of this House. Don't get so impatient.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Madam, I crave the indulgence of the House to listen to me. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If he wants to make an explanation, let him make.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: For some time I have been finding some interesting stories coming about me. Yesterday, in *The Times of India*, a very responsible newspaper, the caption was "Conspirator muddying Cauvery water," It only pointed a needle of suspicion and I thought I should ignore it, because one does not know to whom it was referring.

Of course, yesterday some Members started sayng that it points to me and I just kept quiet.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Your own partymen are planting it.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is possible. I am not going into that issue. (*Interruptions*) Today I find in *The Hindustan Times* from DELHI—it is a very big heading—"Shiv Shanker prevailed upon Bangarappa over Ordinance", and then it goes on saying that I played a key role knowing that it could create problems for the Narasimha Rao Government. It further says: "According to a very close abide of Chief Minister Bangarappa, Mr. Shiv Shanker sought to convince him with the help of Education Minister Veerappa Moily that the Karnataka Government was well within its rights to promulgate such an ordinance." It further goes to the extent of saying that with the help of a couple of my associates, who were known to be close to late Rajiv Gandhi, I have prevailed upon Mr. Bangarappa to issue this Ordnance. I would just like to make the submission that this is totally...

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): He is a ruling party Member. How are we concerned with? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I would very earnestly request you to protect the honour and dignity...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, it is all very very interestiing.

We would like to listen to him. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Madam, I have stood on very small principles in my life. If I am trying to do the politicking in any form, I would like to very clearly express that keeping in view the dignity of this House. I do not deserve to be a Member of this House at all. I am very clear in my mind and I would not hesitate even for a moment to tender the resignaton and get out. The fact is that this is a totally contentious and malicious writing that has come in the newspapers. It is only to muddy my name they have done it. I would not like to go into who has done it and in what manner. It is not my concern. But it involves not only my dgnity but it involves the dignity of this House. It is a reflection on this House that a Member of the House occupying a seat in this House is doing politcking against the interests of the nation and against the interests of the ten corres of people. As I said, Madam, so far as I am concerned, I would like to make the position very clear. Mr. Bangarappa is in no way a friend of mine. After he became the Chief Minister, it is only months back that we exchanged pleasantries only once and beyond that we never talked so far. I have never talked issue with Mr. Veerappa Moily much less an issue with reference to the Cauvery waters dispute. A very serious allegation has been made. I submit that it is a highly irresponsible

allegation possibly at the behest of some of my own friends. I would not like to go beyond that.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Shame.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: This is a serious matter. As I said, this also affects the dignity of the House in the sense that it makes a serious charge against a Member of the House who had been the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. Therefore, if the hon. Members agree, I crave their indulgence to straightway refer this matter to the Privileges Committee and if it is found that I am in any way responsible even in the remotest form and if I have ever talked in the last fifteen days to any of these people, I give an undertaking here that I will tender the resignation and quit.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shiv Shanker, you can write to the Chairman if you feel so ..(*Interruptions*)..

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: My submission is that if the whole House agrees, it may straightway be referred to the Privileges Committee.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : (बिहार) विशेषाधिकार हनन का क्लीय मामला है। महोदया, विशेषाधिकार हनन का साफ मामला है, यह विशेषाधिकार समिति को सुपुर्द कर देना चाहिए।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: I may submit that separately I am requesting the Prime Minister and the Congress President to inquire into the matter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chimanbhai Mehta.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam Deputy Chairman, about the unprecedented hike in the newsprint....

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: What happened to my request? May I know whether it has been referred to the Privileges Committee?

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : महोदया, प्रिविलेज कमेटी के पास इस मामले को भेजना चाहिए और हम लोग इसकी मांग कर रहे हैं।

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, Mr. Shiv Shanker is a senior leader of this House. We have great personal respect for his parliamentary norms, respectability and his functionng. I am sure, in my opinion, as he has very rightly said, whatever politics he wants to do he would do it openly and clearly and not in the manner as alleged. Having said that, the question is newspapers write so many things about an individual. Unless it is about a Member of Parlament for any speech that he has made n the House, it does not become matter of privilege.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: It is a matter of conduct.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: This matter should be referred to the Chairman. If the Chairman in his wisdom thinks that it is a matter of privilege, we have no objection.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is exactly what I have said. Let Mr. Shiv Shanker write to the Chairman and if the Chairman..

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: If it is made over for a House Committee, they could go into it. They could inquire into the whole affair and find out whether I have anything to do in this matter...(*Interruptions*)..I am a Member of this House. This type of allegation affects a Member's free working in this House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shiv Shanker. I feel that ...(*Interruption*).

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Madam, we would like to know the reaction of the Leader of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House is not here. Mr. Shiv Shanker, please do not be so sentimental about newspaper reports.

SHRI P. SHIVSHANKER: I am not sentimental. When it comes to the question of my character, I would try to protect it. I would try to protect my character at any cost. That is why I am saying, I have lived on some small principles in my life and I will die in that form. I do not care for the membership of this House if there is anything wrong with me.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): Madam we appreciate the sentiments expressed by hon. colleague Mr. Shiv Shanker. I have worked with him when he was the Leader of the House; I have also worked with him when he was the Leader of the Opposition, right behind him. I know his character and integrity. The matter is very serious and very important. We are all concerned about it. And in whatever form it may be, this matter can be inquired into by the Chair. We can have a word with the Chairman before taking a final decision about it. The matter is really unfortunate and serious.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, the unprecedented hike in the prices of newsnaper print.... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Newsprint naper.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: You can correct me.

Medium-size and small-size papers are likely to be closed down.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We have decided that we are going to have lunch hour for this session. We will meet after the lunch hour and you can make your mention then.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, I will finish in two minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But there are others also who want to speak on this. So let it be after the lunch hour. Now the House is adiourned for lunch for one hour.

The House then adiourned for lunch at thirty-two minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-five minutes past two of the clock THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Prof Chandresh P. Thakur) in the Chair.

REFERENCE TO THE UNPRECEDENTED HIKE IN PRICE OF IMPORTED NEWSPRINT

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Please continue, Mr. Mehta.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Sir, I was on the question of unprecedented hike in the price of newsprint.. (*Interruptions*).

DR. ABRAR AHMED (Rajasthan): Sir, have you called his names? (*Interruption*).

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: I have been permitted by the Chairman.

DR. ABRAR AHMED: Sir, I want to know whether it is the Zero Hour or it is a Special Mention or it is a legislative business. We do not know what he is taking about.. (*Interruptions*)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Dr. Abrar Ahmed, please sit down.. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. Let me clarify the position. Mr. Mehta had seen the Chairman. He wanted to make certain submissions with regard to certain items. The Chairman had permitted him. He was about to start making his submissions; in the meantime some other items came up for discussion. What had happened, you saw that. He is just resuming the discussion as permitted by the Chair..

Please listen to him..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, can I make a submission?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): You don't have to make.. (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is not only you, but I also gave a letter.... (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR): Only one after the other you can speak. Let him complete first.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Sir, I was speaking about the hike in the newspint price. The hike was almost 60 to 80 per cent in one month. On 1st July when the devaluation took place, on standard newspirnt there was a hike of Rs. 3,000 and on glazed newsprint there was a hike of Rs. 4,565. This hike was the result of devaluation. Now another hike has come about and that is threatening a further push on the standard newsprint to the tune of Rs. 5,000 to 7,000 per tonne and